

ROBE OF POWELL

Auditor General's Department Under Legislative Investigation

PASS JOINT RESOLUTION

By a Staff Correspondent

HARRISBURG, March 20.—An investigation of Auditor General Powell's department was started by the Legislature today, when both branches of the General Assembly adopted a resolution calling upon the Auditor General to report to the Legislature the full details as to why he is employing expert accountants to go over the books in his department.

A shortage has been alleged, and the resolution, introduced by Senator T. Larry Byrnes, of Chester, a Penna. lieutenant, opens the way for a thorough probe and demands the investigation of the State administration that has been threatened by Senator Penrose.

Auditor General Powell, in answer to the action of the Legislature in providing for the probe, said that Attorney General Brown authorized him to employ the accountants. The probe of the Auditor General's Department is only a start, Senator Penrose indicated. The senior Senator is here today, having arrived shortly after the resolution passed.

"It is a tentative start," was his only comment, when told that both branches had adopted the resolution. He would not discuss it or his probe plans further.

Powell entered the Senate chamber soon after the resolution was passed by the Senate.

"I personally requested that the resolution be sent to the House immediately after its passage by the Senate," said the Auditor General. "I have nothing to fear. I court the fullest investigation. Everybody I have employed has been in accordance with the opinion of the Attorney General, and I have employed no one from whom there has not been provision made by appropriation."

"It is true that outside accountants have been assisting my office force in going over my books, but there has been nothing unauthorized in their employment. As for my books not balancing with those of the State Treasurer's Department, it is up to the State Treasurer to see that his books balance with mine, not up to me to see that my books balance with his."

"Is it true that Burns detectives have been employed in your department to keep an eye on certain of the books?" he asked. "I would rather you would not ask me that question. I am not prepared either to deny or to affirm it."

U. S. Marshals Naval Forces to Fight U-Boats

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These members opposed hastening the actual session of Congress.

Other members assumed a different view. They argued that, even though it was conceded that a state of war actually existed, congressional action would be required before any reprisal could be undertaken. The President was understood to have maintained an "open mind" and to have asked every Cabinet member to express his views freely for his guidance.

The general opinion in official circles while the Cabinet was in session was that no change in attitude was likely for the immediate present at least. White House officials said that they did not expect that any official statement would be forthcoming when the Cabinet meeting finally broke up, although they admitted that this depended entirely on President Wilson himself.

The Cabinet meeting ended at 4:19, after the President had held its members in session for more than two hours.

In the tentative plans to meet the submarine menace the United States, Great Britain and France will be linked in guarding the ocean lanes against the U-boats. It is believed, although no official announcement has been made and none is expected soon.

The Administration expected to begin today the work of informally negotiating with these allies. This will probably be undertaken through the State Department and the British and French embassies here.

With its proposed big fleet of patrol and chaser boats, plus larger navy vessels, the United States will be in a position to offer protection to the commerce off the American coast, while Great Britain and France will be expected to reciprocate in the barred zone.

Navy men believe that the submarine menace may be brought directly home; that feats such as the U-53 performed off Nantucket last summer will be repeated.

Navy and army departments buzz with preparations these days. The navy bears the brunt of the work, but under the surface the army has shaped its plans whereby it can call out the National Guard anew, and also provides sufficient officers for the training of a half-million reservists.

The New York Navy Yard began work today on sixty submarine chasers, hastily ordered, while tomorrow bids will be opened for 100 or more 110-foot speedboats, available for coast patrols and submarine chasing.

Nothing will be permitted to stand in the way of hastening navy preparations. The eight-hour law has been cast aside and if commandeering is needed it will be undertaken.

Mobilization of the Atlantic fleet and of the naval militia has been considered for two weeks or more, and it may be necessary to accomplish this before long. At any rate, the Navy Department, inspired by President Wilson, intends to do all that is possible to thwart Germany's ruthlessness.

The action of the President in making immediately available the \$115,000,000 emergency fund carried in the naval appropriation bill has greatly pleased naval officers. They declare that it now will be possible intelligently to speed up all naval construction. Details of such speeding up are not for the public to know, but the officers responsible say that it will be of the most intelligent character.

The tensions of international affairs has spurred both army and navy recruiting. The navy now has 60,000 men, though it still must raise about 27,000 others. Early graduation of two Annapolis classes will provide officers for the untrained.

Again and again officials today emphasized that when the war, considered inevitable, comes, it will be a war of defense of the honor of the United States. The inevitable situation is of Germany's own making.

No official professed to know whether the President had yet made up his mind to advance the extra session of Congress. In this connection it is known that while there has been a general declaration that officials be some certain official sources which are deeply concerned in the defense of the nation have raised their voices against the plan. They argue that it is certain that the German fleet submarines on this side of the Atlantic at a secret base. These submarines are in communication with those without doubt. Advancement of the extra session could be regarded as tantamount to a general declaration that officials be depended on to raid all American ships, especially coastwise vessels.

Helpless Women in Case of War

WASHINGTON, March 20.—In case of a war, the navy intends to take care of the helpless women. They are to be taken to certain safe places and immediately these submarines are depended on to raid all American ships, especially coastwise vessels.

Police Search City for Escaped Raiders

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Max Therichens, senior German commander in charge of the interned ships, added fuel to rumors that the attempted wholesale delivery was the result of a well-planned plot, involving persons "higher up."

Captain Therichens left the navy yard yesterday without guard in the automobile of Adalbert Koering Fischer, one of the alleged principals in the chronometer smuggling plot. Presumably he left to go to the United States Naval Hospital, but at the hospital it was officially denied that he had been there or was there. Whether or not he returned to the navy yard could not be learned.

That the German commanders of the two ships, the Prinz Eitel Friedrich and the Kronprinz Wilhelm, aided the escape was the view expressed by some officials at Washington today.

At the Navy Department it was said that official action regarding the escape would be delayed until an inquiry was made. What to do with the four captured men, who are in the Marine Barracks prison, also was undecided.

As a result of the thrilling venture Federal officials at Washington hurried plans for transferring the 700 Germans aboard the two ships to Fort Oglethorpe and Fort McPherson, Ga. The men probably will be started southward late today or tomorrow, started southward tomorrow, it was said.

Special trains will be run on the spur track leading to the docks alongside the vessels.

Search for the missing men virtually has been turned over to the Philadelphia police and Federal agents, who believe that the missing sailors have made good their escape from the League Island district and are scattered in the city. Close watch is being kept on the addresses given in the lists of names, which are thought to be those of persons who would give shelter to the Germans. Most of these names are of persons in Philadelphia, Hoboken and Jersey City, according to the police.

The name of one Philadelphia—Richard Stein—was said to be among those found on a piece of paper in the pocket of one of the Germans. Stein, who is owner of a small farm near Stonehouse lane and Twentieth street, has a son who drives a South Broad street jitney, operating between the navy yard and Shunk street.

MAYOR TAKES CHARGE

Mayor Smith was roused out of bed at his home at Glenide at 3 o'clock this morning and hurried by automobile to League Island, where he took charge of the city policemen on the scene. He personally directed the search for the missing Teutons.

United States marines, working in shifts of one company each throughout the night, gave up their search of the marshland northwest of the navy yard at 9 o'clock this morning.

Philadelphia mounted policemen played an important part in the capture of the four Germans. A warning shot from a marine sentry posted at the stockade half-enclosing the dock of the raiders at 9:15 o'clock last night brought three mounted policemen, who collected four Germans—all they saw—with in five minutes.

The sentry, who was patrolling the narrow lane between the high barbed-wire stockade and an outer wire fence, heard a soft splash in the water of the back channel, near the stern of the two vessels. He fired his rifle.

Mounted Policemen Burton Bennett, William Jester and J. H. Ellison, details to prevent communication between the raiders and outsiders, were attracted to the spot.

They saw a dark object cutting through the water. It was a swimmer, sturdily fighting through the ice-cold water toward the point where the west end of the stockade curves and meets the shore of the back channel, about fifty yards from the stern of the ships.

They drew their revolvers and fired, cutting the water about the man with a hail of bullets and shouting to him to surrender or they would fire to kill.

The German, hesitating, finally threw up one hand.

"Kamerad!" he shouted. That is the German equivalent for "I surrender."

The policemen waited for him to swim to shore. He fell into their arms, panting and nearly frozen to death from his plunge into the water. He was wrapped in a cork life belt. Bennett took him in charge and ran him to the guardhouse.

Meanwhile the searchlight of the scout cruiser Salen, aroused by the firing, was flashing through the darkness. By its light Jester and Ellison saw a man fleeing westward along a path by the stockade. They spurred their horses and galloped after him.

capturing him. Scarcely had they handed him when another swimmer emerged from the water. They collared him, too.

As Bennett was jogging along with his prisoner, he found another German shivering in a clump of weeds outside the stockade. This man, evidently confused in the darkness, had become lost and was glad to surrender.

By this time the entire yard was aroused. Marines were ordered out on the double quick and the terrain west of Broad street was closed to all not in uniform. A company of marines, with loaded rifles, spread out fanlike in the darkness north and west, sweeping the marshland as far as the Schuylkill River and swinging in toward the Girard Point elevator, on the river.

Extra policemen were rushed to the navy yard and joined in the search. The police boat John E. Reburn, moored at Chestnut street wharf, Schuylkill, was ordered down the river at 3 o'clock this morning, and searched the river bank, later taking on a detachment of marines and examining the river banks as far north as the Penrose Ferry bridge.

UNIFORMS FOUND

An important discovery was made by Mounted Policemen Evans and Carney in the marshland where the back channel joins the Schuylkill River. They found three wet and bedraggled sailors' uniforms and two caps bearing the letters "K. M. Prinz Eitel Friedrich"; six cork life belts, wrapped in newspapers and several collars. The civilian clothes were dry, indicating that they had not been carried through the water by the Germans in their daring swim for liberty. One of the uniforms was that of a boatswain, and the others of ordinary seamen.

Shortly after this discovery Major Logan Peard, commandant of marines, led another company of land sailors on a systematic search of small farmhouses, barns, sheds and outbuildings that dot the farm and pigery property of this section. The search, which lasted until 6 o'clock this morning, extended as far north as Oregon avenue.

TAKEN TO GUARDHOUSE

The Germans captured here first were taken to the guardhouse, where they were searched. Then they were sent aboard the Salen, where they were given treatment to counteract the shock of the cold and later were taken to the prison.

As soon as the alarm was given extra precautions were taken to prevent further escape of the Germans. The searchlight of the Salen was flashed on the two German raiders until the searchlight of the scout cruiser Chicago could be brought into action. Then the Salen's light flashed out over the marshlands of League Island Park, adding the marines and policemen in finding their way through the darkness.

Tugs were ordered to the back channel and guard about the stockade was doubled. When morning came supplies for the two German vessels were subjected to minute examination at the gate. Heretofore a proof or two into packages had been deemed sufficient, but today the lids of all boxes were pried open with an ax and the contents examined.

A sudden "dousing" of electric lights at the main gate of the navy yard and of the Salen, where they were given treatment to counteract the shock of the cold and later were taken to the prison.

The crews of the German ships seemed to be elated today over the reported escape of their comrades and over the first real

excitement they have enjoyed since they were forced to end their commerce raiding on the high seas and take shelter in an American port. Two of their number, busy with some moorings of the Prinz Eitel, were ordered aboard rather peremptorily by a marine sentry for rollcall. They hoped and pranced up the gangplank with agility. At this the crews, lined up on the Eitel's deck, gave a roar of laughter that could be heard at the main gate.

Heretofore the interned raiders were brought to Philadelphia from Norfolk ten Germans escaped there and put to sea in an open boat. They were never captured.

Secretary Daniels said today that the attempt of the Germans to escape was probably due to their knowledge of the plans of this Government to transfer them to Fort Oglethorpe and McPherson in Georgia. The Secretary said the German Government has less than the men supplied with money ever since they have been interned here, sending it each month.

The Germans have been instructed to prepare an inventory of the property they are to leave when they are taken from the Philadelphia Navy Yard. It is expected that the sailors will leave Philadelphia tomorrow for the South.

The official view taken of the German sell-off of their property is shown in the Philadelphia Navy Yard. It is expected that the sailors will leave Philadelphia tomorrow for the South.

"At the time the German-Mexican-Japanese plot was conceived the United States was at peace with the German Empire, and German officials and German subjects were not only enjoying, but abusing, the liberties and privileges freely accorded to them on American soil and under American protection."

Russia Pushes Plans for War and Reforms

Continued from Page One

building, and there is a steady flow of proclamations and manifestos addressed to the people, the army and the navy.

Prof. Paul Mitukoff is authority for the statement that Russia is still bound by the treaty obligations made by the old autocracy, although it is evident that the new Government, when firmly established, will desire to remake some of the treaties now in force with covenants that have the national approval.

The financial obligations of the old Government also are to be honored, it is stated.

Not until the hour of his downfall was at hand did Nicholas, former Emperor of Russia, know of the sweep of revolution through his empire. Then he broke down and wept and signed a decree of abdication without any hesitation. Telegrams telling of the victorious tidal-wave rush of the revolution had been withheld from the Czar. He was en route to Tsarskoe-Selo (castle on the Moscow-Petrograd Railway when he first learned of the success of the uprising.

The train had been ordered to Petrograd instead of the castle, and when it was made plain that the rebels had the upper hand some one suggested that the Germans be

allowed to break through on the Dvina front. To this the Emperor replied: "No, no, I can never become a traitor to my country."

The Czar felt deep anxiety for his family, knowing of the illness of his wife, daughters and son, and, as the tears from his eyes, he exclaimed: "I pray God they are safe and that they shall be allowed to go to Livadia in peace."

These questions, however, are more or less side issues at the present time. The two big questions with which the provisional Government is struggling are these:

1. Domestic reforms of a political and economic importance.

2. More vigorous prosecution of the war, with the elimination of the irregularities and espionage that marked the old Government.

A delegation of Finns is coming here, and it is understood that they will be promised autonomy for Finland. Full liberties for the Jews and Armenians are also on the program of the reformers.

In some districts, it was said, the revolutionary movement has still met with some resistance, the loyalists not knowing the full strength of the revolutionary forces, but it is confidently predicted that before many days have passed the red flag of freedom will float over every section of the empire. The friendly attitude of the Entente Powers is highly encouraging to the new Government.

Reports that General Brussloff, commander of the main group of Russian armies on the eastern front, will be appointed Russian commander-in-chief were strengthened today when it was announced that the provisional government has found it inexpedient to promote Grand Duke Nicholas to that post.

Opposition to the Grand Duke developed from the fact that he is a blood relative of the deposed Czar. The propaganda against the Romanoff family has become so strong that the Lvoff Ministry in Russia has found it necessary to head, in some instances, to its will.

This same propaganda has led Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch to waive his rights to the sovereign power until after the election of a national assembly. Notwithstanding the Grand Duke's waiver was made known following a conference between him and Prince Lvoff and the provisional Ministry.

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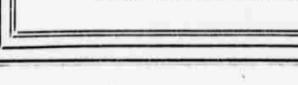


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